GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1626
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
STUDY ON GLACIERS CONDUCTED BY ISRO
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted any study on glaciers in the Himalayas; and

(b) if so, the details of the key findings thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has carried out investigation of selected glaciers in the Parbati basin, using satellite images. The results of the study show a reduction in aerial extent of the glaciers to the tune of 5.4% during the period 1998-2004. Statistics on reduction in aerial extent of the glaciers studied is given in attached Table 1.

Table 1

Name of Glaciers in Parbati Basin	Loss in Glacial Area Year of Observation and Area in sq.km. 1998	2004	Loss in area (sq. km)
Parbati	38.21	36.17	2.04
52H08005	1.21	1.20	0.01
52H12001	27.29	27.13	0.16
52H12004	0.63	0.62	0.01
52H12005	2.62	2.54	0.08
52H12006	0.44	0.40	0.04
52H12008	21.80	19.27	2.53
52H12009	9.70	8.93	0.77
52H12010	8.68	8.25	0.43
52H12011	2.81	2.75	0.06
Total	113.39	107.26	6.13
% loss in area		5.40	